



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

DHR Board

Friday, September 13, 2013

9 a.m.

Department of Public Safety, 215 E. 7th St., Des Moines, Public Conference Room 1st Floor

Members Present: Jill Olsen, Jason Glass, Joan Jaimes, Floyd Winter, Sherri Soich, Jennifer Upah, Karen Mackey, Ben Jung, (joined at 9:45 a.m.), Redmond Jones (joined at 10:45 a.m.), Sen. Rita Hart (ex-officio), San Wong (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Anna Brown, LaSheila Yates, Rep. Garrett, Sen. Sorenson, Rep. Thede

Guests: Heidi Smith, Deputy Director; Mary Bowser, budget analyst; Paul Stageberg, CJJP Administrator; Bill Brand, DCAA Administrator; Danielle Plogmann, staff.

Call to order: Chair Olsen called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Meeting began with introductions.

Motion: Winter moved to approve the May 20, 2013 meeting minutes.

Second: Mackey seconded.

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Director Wong gave the Department report. She noted Jeff Boeyink has left the Governor's Office and Brenna Findley is currently serving as interim Chief of Staff. Michael Bousset is no longer DHR's policy advisor in the Governor's Office. Ann Hughes has taken over that role. Olsen noted that Hughes will attend the October board meeting.

Wong explained that the legislature changed DHR's code during the last session related to quorum, which is now based off a majority of voting members.

Wong mentioned personnel changes within the department. When asked if hiring to fill vacancies can be expedited, Wong explained the department is doing its best within the system.

Wong noted some collaborations, explaining DHR is working with the Governor's Office to host a disability employment forum this fall. Several divisions have also hosted international visitors to explain human rights-related issues in Iowa.

Finally, Wong asked the board for approval of the department's FY15 budget request. Wong explained the budget is status quo. The department has absorbed increases in contract salaries this fiscal year through vacancies, but expects that toward the end of this fiscal year, both CJJP and CAS divisions will have to lay off staff in order to absorb further increases with a status quo budget. Wong noted she hates to lose good people, but she also doesn't want to have to cut back on services provided to underrepresented Iowans. She explained that 98% of the department's costs are fixed, leaving very little discretionary spending from which to cut. She noted that discretionary funds include travel for the department's more than 100 commissioners.

Upah asked about how many current staff are in Deaf Services. Wong explained that there are two fulltime disability consultants in Deaf Services, as well as an executive officer who serves Deaf Services, Persons with Disabilities and Native Americans. Wong said Deaf Services is the only area in CAS with more than one full-time staff, as the disability consultants do more direct services with deaf individuals.

Motion: Winter moved to approve the FY15 budget as presented.

Second: Mackey seconded.

Vote: Olsen, Glass, Winter, Jaimes, Mackey, Soich - Yes. Upah – No. Motion carried.

Deputy Director Heidi Smith provided an update on the outreach meetings conducted across Iowa between October 2012 and February 2013. Smith presented an executive summary, which she said she wanted to use beyond the report to the board. She noted that she will send legislators the report from their local community when session resumes. Smith emphasized DHR has been working to educate stakeholders such as Iowa Workforce Development and Iowa Finance Authority, and provided examples of how the project is building bridges within communities. When asked by Winter about intentions to replicate the outreach project, Wong noted that it will likely be in two to three years, depending on resources and need. Olsen noted it would be helpful to have more specific numbers in the summary. She also recommended partnering with community organizations, who might be able to take the lead on finding and implementing solutions. Upon discussion with Sen. Hart, Smith said she would consider adding a cover letter to legislators about useful information they can find in the report.

Work groups provided oral updates.

Advocacy – Plogmann assisted the board's work group and surveyed DHR staff about current relationships with five of Iowa's largest state agencies involved in economic development. The next step is for the board to gather similar information from commissions. Once that information is collected, the board can decide how to proceed in economic development/jobs-related outreach. Plogmann will draft an email for board members to send to their respective commissions to collect the necessary information. Members will bring this to the October meeting. Regarding legislative priorities, the work group has not yet developed a process for evaluating legislative proposals. Wong noted that more important than originating legislation is being able to explain how legislation proposed by others might impact underrepresented Iowans. The work group and Wong are to work on a process which can be shared with the board in October.

Communications – The communications work group discussed the elevator speech with members. After discussion, the work group agreed to spend some time revising the draft and bring a revision for a vote in October.

Data – The resources document has been completed and the work group will update it as needed.

Members provided commission/community updates.

Jason Glass (Public member) – Glass, who works at Four Oaks in Cedar Rapids, brought materials to share with board members about Four Oaks' trauma informed care and total child efforts.

Floyd Winter (Public member) – Winter noted the Black Hawk County Attorney and Sheriff recently held a meeting to draw attention to the importance of early childhood education in helping prevent juvenile justice issues. He also noted the Greater Cedar Valley Chamber held a major inclusion conference. Lastly, he noted several Operation Threshold events.

Latino Affairs (Jaimes) – The commission participated in a multi-consular event with eight different consuls on August 16. They also recently celebrated the Latino Heritage Festival. The Latina Leadership Initiative is now underway with 14 young women participating in the year-long initiative. Participants are paired with mentors, and exposed to leadership opportunities. The commission met this week and will prepare legislative priorities for a February 6 day at the Hill. During the meeting, a public member expressed disappointment in the office's webpage. Jaimes asked when the office will be able to post Latino events to the website. Plogmann explained that due to resources, the department will continue only posting office and commission-specific events and information. The department is also a year or two out from changing to a content management system. Due to costs and difficulty of use, it isn't practical for the department to buy additional Dreamweaver licenses for all CAS employees. When asked if someone could build an outside page to which the department could redirect, Plogmann said this could be a security-related issue and would follow up.

African Americans (Jones) – Last May the commission hosted the Botswana Ambassador to the United States for an event at the Governor’s Mansion. This was tied to the Governor’s goal of creating jobs. The event encouraged Iowans to look at business opportunities in Botswana and vice versa. Jones just returned from Botswana yesterday and formalized a sister cities relationship between Francistown and Davenport. Davenport will hold a gala to recognize sister cities.

Deaf Services (Upah) – The commission has received a proclamation from the Governor for Deaf Awareness Week later in September. The commission will hold an event for awareness about deaf culture.

CJJP Planning and Advisory Council (Soich/Stageberg) – Soich deferred to Stageberg, who said that staff are working on a couple of advisory papers, including one about violent crimes which require a minimum 70% sentence. The Legislative Council also asked CJJP to look at the Klunder kidnapping and murder case. Stageberg said he believes changes can be made that will not bring in too many more people, but that will cover events like the Klunder case.

Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (Jung) – API is planning to host an open house at DHR office as part of its efforts to get a better understanding of key representatives within the community. The idea to identify relevant associations came out of the commission’s strategic planning. Jung also noted the group’s frustration with the website.

Sen. Hart – Sen. Hart thanked board members for their participation and dedication. She represents Clinton County and part of Scott County in the legislature. Her background is in education and she has interest in the areas underrepresented in DHR.

Native American Affairs (Mackey) – The commission met at the Women’s Correctional Facility in Mitchellville. About 20 inmates joined the meeting and their participation was powerful. The commission will be doing some education about ICWA – the Indian Child Welfare Act. A U.S. Supreme Court ruling was not a good result, from the perspective of Natives. Iowa does have its own ICWA. Mackey noted that ICWA impacts the lives of a lot of women who are inmates in Mitchellville. Other ongoing topics include Disproportionate Minority Contact and education regarding Native American Mascots. Mackey echoed frustration with the website situation. The commission is working to receive proclamations for Native American Heritage Month and a memorial march in Sioux City, both in November. Finally, Mackey mentioned three upcoming events – a diversity conference at the end of October, the League of Iowa Human and Civil Rights Agencies event and the Iowa Civil Rights Symposium.

Status of Women (Olsen) – The commission’s partnership with Iowa Caregivers resulted in legislation being passed. The Commission continues to work on gender balance on boards and commissions. Olsen handed out cards encouraging members to nominate for next year’s Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame. She also mentioned that the Friends of the commission is hosting an event called “Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet”. Stageberg said his division is tracking cases of domestic abuse with strangulation, which he will share with the commission.

Public comment: None.

Motion: Jung moved to adjourn.

Second: Glass seconded.

Olsen adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Danielle Plogmann, staff.